



Module Specification

Criminal Advocacy

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Criminal Advocacy

Module code: UJXUSN-20-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 20

ECTS credit rating: 10

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law - non modular

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: The syllabus commences with lectures and workshop activity relating to submission advocacy such as bail applications and pleas in mitigation. The syllabus also covers case analysis skills.

The focus of the syllabus then shifts to examination of witness technique i.e. cross examination and examination in chief separately.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The format and progression of sessions is appropriate to this module, so that when taken as a whole and in conjunction with other programme activity, a coherent framework is provided for the development of the skills of criminal advocacy.

Workshops are interactive during which students will be taught case analysis, submission based advocacy as well as examination of witness technique.

Although there will be some large group sessions, most of the teaching takes place via small group sessions. Workshops use a variety of active learning methods incorporating real world research examples. Students make extensive use of practitioner texts and case and statutory authority.

All the advocacy sessions will be recorded for student reflection. Additionally the formative assessment will be recorded for future discussion and feedback and the summative assessment will be recorded for marking and moderation purposes.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Prepare a case effectively, understanding the relevant law, facts and principles, observing the rules of professional conduct and planning the advocacy task in question

MO2 Demonstrate basic advocacy skills in a range of criminal scenarios in applications before a range of tribunals

MO3 Prepare and deliver examination in chief

MO4 Prepare and deliver cross examination

MO5 Represent either the prosecution or defence in a trial

Hours to be allocated: 200

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 156 hours

Face-to-face learning = 44 hours

Total = 0

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujxusn-20-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujxusn-20-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: For professional body purposes, students are required to demonstrate their competence in 2 key skills of examination of witness technique namely: Examination in chief and Cross examination. Students must achieve a pass in each of the two skills, in order to pass the module. Pass standard is assessed as 60% or above in each skill and each skill are further graded dependent upon the mark awarded.

The two assessment tasks will require the student to demonstrate skills in witness handling. The nature of the application will be one covered in the Criminal Advocacy workshop activity and which is part of the Criminal Litigation Syllabus but the student's brief will be new and previously unseen.

The student materials are made available on Blackboard 7 days before the appointment date

Students are assessed based on published criteria that students work to in workshop activity and that relate to Structure, Communication and Delivery, Questioning Technique, Content (EIC)/ Undermining Credibility of a witness and Putting and Advancing the case (CE).

The tasks also provide the opportunity for the student to demonstrate their understanding of, and ability to apply, the rules of Professional conduct. A breach of the rules of professional conduct will attract negative marking to the overall score.

A student who fails what is identified as the 'legal knowledge' threshold of the particular assessment will be deemed to have failed the assessment overall despite having passed the other elements. Students are advised that the fatal flaw rule as being: 'Inadequate demonstration of knowledge and comprehension, or inadequate case analysis or failure to advance their case, (which) must result in the candidate being failed in that assessment, irrespective of the marks achieved in the different parts of the assessment'.

The Tasks (2):

1. Cross Examination

The assessment comprises a single task which is in controlled conditions.

The student will be required to attend a holding room and watch an examination in chief . This will be immediately followed by a 30 minute appointment before the assessor sitting as a judge in court. During the appointment the student will have to cross examine the witness (played by an actor).

2. Examination in Chief

The assessment comprises a single task which is in controlled conditions.

The student will be allocated a 30 minute appointment before the assessor sitting as a judge in court. During the appointment the student will have to examine in chief the witness/defendant (played by an actor).

Assessment tasks:

Set Exercise (First Sit)

Description: Questioning Technique (Examination-in-chief)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

Set Exercise (First Sit)

Description: Examination of witnesses (cross-examination)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5

Set Exercise (Resit)

Description: Questioning Technique (Examination in chief)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

Set Exercise (Resit)

Description: Examination of witnesses (cross-examination)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: